THE PLOUGH BOY.

AND JOURNAL OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

BY S. SOUTHWICK.

"He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap."—BUT—"He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread."—*Ecclesiastes.*

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FOR THE PLOUGH BOY.

THE FARMER's AND PLANTER's FRIEND.
No. VII.

[CONCLUDED.]

This, I presume, will be freely admitted as the probable value of the cotton goods consumed in 1814, in the United States, at the then prices. Deducting $1,421,629, being one half of the whole amount of the goods imported that year subject to 25 per cent duty (which embraced cottons and woollens) it leaves nearly $30,000,000, or less than four dollars per head, for the whole population, to be supplied by the domestic cotton manufacture, which considerably exceeds the amount stated in the report of the committee of commerce and manufactures.

But this is by no means the whole of the evidence. An important document exists, of no ordinary character and authority, of which I submit an abstract:—

In 1819, in consequence of the depression of the cotton manufacture in Rhode Island, an investigation was instituted into its situation in 1815, in order to ascertain by comparison, the extent of the declension, by which it appeared that there had been in the latter year within 30 miles of Providence,

Cotton manufactories	140
Cont'g, in actual operation, spindles,	130,000
Using annually, bales of cotton,	29,000
Equal to lbs.	8,700,000
Producing yards of cotton goods,	27,840,000
The weaving of which, at 8 cents per yard, cost,	$2,227,200
Total value of the cloth,	$6,000,000
Persons steadily employed,	26,000

The sphere of enquiry embraced in the statement presented to congress, was so wide, and the difficulty of procuring information from such various quarters, so great, that however upright, intelligent, and industrious, the inquirers were, the result of the investigation might be considerably erroneous. But in the case of Rhode Island, if the details be incorrect, it must have arisen from downright fraud and imposture. The sphere of inquiry was so limited—the facts of such public notoriety—and misstatements so open to immediate detection, as would deter the parties from imposition, even if uninfluenced by honour and principle. The investigation was, moreover, conducted under the inspection of the late Mr. Burral, a respectable member of the Senate of the U. S. and other gentlemen, whose characters and standing in society, afforded full guarantee for the fairness and candour of their statement, which is, therefore, as well entitled to credit as any other public document whatever. If it be rejected without conclusive and overwhelming evidence, and even without a plausible appearance of error, to what document shall we give credence?

This being premised, let us see how it bears on this important topic. SAY asserts, that there were not 60,000 persons employed in these manufactures,* that is, I presume, those of cotton; whereas we find 26,000 employed in a small corner of the country. He scouts the idea of 90,000 bales of cotton being consumed in the whole of the United States, whereas there were 29,000 bales consumed in that limited space. Surely, then, he must be in error—surely he did not duly consider the subject—and as surely there cannot be the shadow of a doubt that the manufacturers in the rest of the union, consumed the remaining 61,000 bales—or that the number of persons stated to have been employed is within due bounds.

* I have had considerable difficulty to ascertain the precise meaning of *Say*, and whether he did not extend his denial to both woollen and cotton manufactures; as he had been previously discussing the subject of both. His words are—"*I do not believe the persons employed in these manufactures amount to* 60,000." But the construction of the different sentences appear to warrant the limitation to the cotton branch. If otherwise, it appears most extravagantly erroneous.

I might here close the subject. But at the hazard of being prolix, I subjoin a few strong facts.

The cotton factories in the single county of Oneida, N. Y. consumed in 1815, no less than 400,000 lbs. of cotton, equal to about 1300 bales.*

Those in Connecticut contain 50,000 spindles, and are capable, if all were employed, as by due encouragement they might be, of manufacturing 9,960,000 yards of cloth annually, and employ 10,000 persons, exclusive of weavers.†

The Eagle factory in Trenton wove in 1815, 10,000 yards per week, equal to 520,000 per annum.‡

The Waltham factory consumed in 1819, about 1400 bales of cotton—produced 1,250,000 yards of cloth—and employed about 300 persons. It was in operation in 1815, but on what scale I cannot ascertain; probably, however, not near so great.

In Philadelphia and its vicinity, in 1815, there were 2325 persons employed in the manufacture of cotton. Supposing 900 to have been weavers, and to have produced 10 yards per day, it amounted to 2,673,000 yards per annum—and, at three yards to the pound, was equal to 2,408 bales.

When these facts are duly considered—and further, that a large portion of the paper mills throughout the middle states were at that period converted to the purpose of making cotton cloth—that establishments of this kind were, as I have said, spread over the middle and eastern states in every direction, and even in some of the southern states, as far as North Carolina, no doubt can be entertained of the correctness of the statement of the committee of commerce and manufactures.

* Address of the National Instution of New-York.
† Idem. ‡ Idem.

The manufacture did not, as I have already observed, receive any material check in 1815, notwithstanding the flood of goods poured into the country during the last half of that year. These were generally sold very high, owing to the existence of the double duties, and the general rage for opening stores and purchasing goods. The repeal of the double duties in June, 1816, and the daily increasing supplies from Europe, arrested the sales of the domestic goods in that year, and produced that scene of distress of which I have given a slight sketch at the commencement of this essay.

Among the pernicious consequences of this state of things, was a diminution of the domestic consumption of cotton, probably to the amount of half—at least two-fifths—of the quantity used before. This diminution continued for the two succeeding years, and was probably at least 10,000,000 of pounds per annum; whereas, had the manufacture been duly fostered, it would certainly have increased 5,000,000. This will be admitted by those who consider that the business was in its infancy—had grown in five years from a consumption of 10,000 bales to 90,000—that it had as yet been chiefly confined to coarse goods—and that many even of those were not as yet manufactured, but would have been produced in great abundance with proper encouragement.

In order to ascertain the effect the abstraction of 15,000,000 pounds of our cotton from the British market would have produced, in 1818, it is necessary to take into view the amount of this cotton imported into Great Britain, and consumed in that year:

Imported,	bales, 219,950
Consumed,	160,870
Surplus,	bales, 59,080
Equal to	lbs. 17,724,000*

It is therefore, I think, a rational conclusion, that had our manufactures been in the prosperous condition in which a due degree of patronage would have placed them, such an extra portion of the raw material would have been consumed at home in 1818, as would have reduced the exportation to Great Britain to a level with the consumption in that country, and prevented the depression of price which produced so much ruin to the merchants, and diminution of income to the planters.

It may be asked what would be a "*due degree of patronage?*" I will for a moment suppose that the duty on cotton goods had been raised in 1818, to 33 per cent, (the duty proposed in 1816, by Mr. Dallas)—and that all goods below 30 cents per yard, were subject to duty as if they cost 30. Were this the case, the domestic consumption would doubtless not only be raised to what it was in 1815, viz. 90,000 bales—but would be increased os far beyond that quantity as to consume the whole extra quantity exported that year to Great Britain.

I now proceed to consider the case of last year, in order to ascertain whether the reduction which then took place, might not have been wholly or at least partly obviated.

The importation of United States cotton into Great Britain in 1820, was greatly increased beyond any former year, being

bales,	301,928
Whereas it was in 1819 only	204,631
An increase of	97,297*
However the consumption had also greatly increased, being in 1820,	246,900
Whereas it was in 1819 only	209,000
Increase	37,900*
Thus the different increase between the importation and consumption was only, bales,	59,397
Equal to lbs.	17,819,100

I have already stated that a variety of circumstances combined to increase the domestic consumption last year, among which the most powerful were a deficiency of imported manufactures, owing to the general pressure of the times, with the embarrassments of the importers—and the superiority and cheapness of the domestic articles. Still the manufacture was not carried even last year to any thing like the extent of which it is susceptible. Had it been in this situation, it would have probably consumed the surplus of our exportation, as it might have done in 1818, and thus prevented this recent depreciation.

It would, however, be idle to suppose that any encouragement that can be given to the domestic cotton manufacture would keep pace with such a rapid increase of the raw materials as 39,000,000 lbs. per annum, in this country,† and such an increase as is likely to take place in South America. In this state of things, the only radical remedy is such a general encouragement of domestic manufactures, as will restore the deranged equilibrium of the different pursuits of society, and not only prevent the manufacturing class from crowding on the agriculturists, who are already too numerous in proportion to our population, but induce some of the former, who have been driven to enter the lists with the latter, to return to their old ranks, and thus (to confine myself for the present, to the culture of cotton,) diminish the production and increase the domestic consumption of that most important raw material. The same reasoning will apply to flax, hemp, leather, timber, and the other numerous articles for which the manufacturers would, by due encouragement, furnish a most valuable market to their agricultural fellow citizens.

GUATIMOZIN.

April 24, 1821.

P. S. The duties mentioned in this essay are those stated in the tariff—to which, in every case, ten per cent must be added.

* Maury & Latham's Price Current, Liverpool, January 20, 1821.

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† The export of 1819, was 87,997,045 lbs.; whereas it was in 1820, no less than 127,860,152 lbs. See Reports of the Secretary of the Treasury.

THE PLOUGH BOY.

ALBANY: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1821.

FOR THE PLOUGH BOY.

Crambe Maratima; Sea Cabbage. [*Tetradynamia Seliquosa.*] *Perennial in Root and annual in Stalk.*

Propagation by Seed. It is the best practice to raise young plants from seed, sown in spring or fall, on beds where they are intended to remain; by this means the plants receive no check in their growth and will produce shoots for cutting the third spring.

Propagation by Roots. In Spring cut the main root in pieces of two inches in length, plant them perpendicularly three inches deep, and the second spring they will produce to cut.

Seedling plants one year old if carefully transplanted in the spring, and the season prove favourable, will put forth shoots to cut the second spring. This method of propagation is very uncertain, as the plants are difficult to transplant in consequence of their thick fleshy and deep penetrating roots, which run down to a great depth in proper soil.

The best soil is a deep dry sandy loam, made into beds six inches above the common level, each bed wide enough to plant two rows, the space between each plant, fourteen inches, and between each row eighteen inches.

Immediately after the frost is out of the ground, the roots are to be covered for blanching, either by drawing the earth about them in the manner of hilling corn, to the depth of ten or twelve inches, or by heaping loose sand on them to the same depth. Or by inverting flower pots over them that have the holes in the ends made air tight: either of these methods will succeed.

Commence to cut the shoots when about four inches in length, in order to have crops in succession, as all the shoots spring up at the same time.

This plant is esculent, delicious in flavour and prefered to asparagus.

After the season of cutting is over, level the top of the beds and keep them free of weeds.

—

Mr. Southwick,

A gentleman sent me the above, for which I am thankful. No one can raise Sea Cale or Sea Cabbage a better way. I claim to be the first who has raised 500 roots of it in Albany, in the garden formerly held by Mr. Skinner, which will be sold cheap. October is a good time for planting them, by covering them with long horse dung during the winter. Sea Cabbage was found on the sea beach, and has been cultivated for 20 years in England. It is earlier than Asparagus.

GEORGE HEWSON.

FOR THE PLOUGH BOY.

INDIAN CORN.

The attacks of the worm upon the seed corn when planted, may, it is said, be prevented by depositing piece of the cob in the same spot as the grains of corn. The insects bore the cob, and this saves the corn. The experiment is simple and easy, and is certainly worth a trial.

—

From a North Carolina paper.

SEED CORN.

I have been for several years in the practice of selecting my seed corn in the field, before gathering my crop, from such stalks as bore two ears, taking those of the best appearance, a practice which I think has improved my crop. I have also made another experiment. I broke a sufficient number of ears of corn in two to procure sced to plant two certain pieces of ground, both of the same quality, and prepared in the same way. I planted one piece with the seed from the butt end of the ear, the other from the top end; and gave both pieces the same cultivation. That planted with seed from the butt end, produced seven bushels per acre more than that planted with the seed from the top end.

N. NEWLEN.

From the National Gazette.

MANUFACTURES THRIVING.

From enquiries conducted in a manner which entitles the result to confident belief, it appears that there are now in this city and its immediate vicinity 4000 looms at work in the manufacture of cotton fabrics only, excluding those which are employed in manufacturing woollen cloths, &c. They work up on a moderate average four pounds of cotton each day, making a total of 16,000 pounds of cotton every twenty-four hours, anp 96,000 pounds a week, and are principally in the hands of small capitalists, themselves manufacturers, who find a ready sale for their work at a fair price at the end of each week, for cash.—Many of their fabrics are confessedly superior in quality to similar articles imported from abroad, or from other states. They have the decided preference of the consumer and of the country merchaut. These looms have been set to work within four months, and it is not straining probability to anticipate an increase of them to 16,000 in less than six months, which will work up 64,000 pounds of cotton every day. Nor can there be a doubt that these manufactures will maintain the preference they have in the market, and more and more attract the attention of the country merchants. To the planter this is *glorious news*. Already cotton has advanced from nine to fifteen cents a pound. But it is *glorious news* to the citizens of Philadelphia also, which, we trust, is about to fulfil her destinies, by becoming the greatest manufacturing city in the union. Nor can it be less pleasing to the friends and foes of the proposed tariff. On the one hand, the success of manufactures so conducted, in spite of foreign competition, is demonstrated; and on the other, it is shown that this success does not demand any further governmental interference with the course of foreign commerce.

July 9th. W.

From the Connecticut Journal.

TO THE FARMERS.

Gentlemen.—The season is near at hand, when your barns will be filled with the products of your fields. And it is certainly desirable, after the labour and expense of filling them has been met, that they should be *preserved*, to *remunerate* this labour and expense. You must, however, be sensible, at least, you will be, if you will recur to facts, that your expectations of reward for your toil, is often cut short by a sudden stroke of lightning. This you can prevent by erecting lightning-rods to your barns. The last season, after the summer crops were gathered, a greater amount of property was destroyed by lightning, in the county of New Haven alone, than would have furnished lightning-rods to every barn in the state. It must then certainly be unwise to risque such an amount of property when it can be insured at so low a premium.

After close observation for fifteen years, I fearlessly assert, that during the months of July and August, that is, after your summer crops are lodged in your barns, a greater number of barns are struck by lightning, by twenty to one, than any other object of equal height and number.—The reason is obvious to a careful observer, at least, it is so, to a philosophical one. The exhaltations which arise from a barn filled with hay and grain, recently gathered, are great, and form a column of rarified air, which reaches to a great height in the atmosphere. This column is a direct attractor and conductor to the electric fluid; as much so, as the smoke of an extinguished candle is to an approximating flame. Erect lightning-rods to your barns, and the fluid is conducted harmlessly to the earth.

Dragon's Blood Tree.—On the island of Teneriffe there is a dragon's blood tree, which, at the height of 6 feet from the ground, is 36 feet in girth. It is supposed to be above three centuries old.

FOR THE PLOUGH BOY.

DOMESTIC MEMORANDA.

Fowls.—Bones in their unburnt state, pounded fine, or earth, is needful for dunghill fowls in the winter. This furnishes lime for the composition of the egg shell, and will make them lay plentifully. Hens, however, when they are well fed will not lay when the ground is covered with snow, unless they can have a greater supply of lime than they can get from corn.

To rid a garden of Caterpillars.—Take the advantage of a rainy morning, while the leaves are wet, and sprinkle them, especially the under parts, and young shoots, with fine sand. The caterpillars entangled in the sand, will drop off, and will not return.

To save Poultry, &c. from Foxes.—It is but little known, but it is nevertheless a fact, that a little tar rubbed on the necks of young lambs, or geese, will prevent the depredations of foxes upon them, those animals having an unconquerable aversion to tar.

Swine.—From the manner in which swine take their food, they necessarily take with it considerable earth. This so far from being injurious, is really serviceable to their health. When confined in small styes, where they are excluded from the ground, or on ground constantly covered with filth, fresh earth should be daily thrown to them. In a filthy pen, they will often root deep—their object doubtless is to get fresh earth. The bones of animals contain a large proportion of lime, and a constant supply of this is needful for the growth of the animals. The food usually given to swine, contains but a small proportion of lime. This defect may be supplied by giving them lime. They are also very fond of the soft bones of animals, which will answer the same purpose as that of earth.

Cockroaches.—By placing a bowl of molasses and water in the place frequented by those troublesome insects, it is said that they will soon be exterminated.

Rats and Mice, will imediately quit barns, granaries, &c. wherein is placed the field plant called dog's tongue, bruised with a hammer.

Milch Cows. fed on stubble immediately after harvest will improve the quality of their milk, and the butter made from its cream will be uncommonly rich.

Rheumatic Pains.—Take some of the oil that floats on the top of a cask of *pickled salmon*, and rub the parts affected; in two or three day's application it will effect a cure.

To stop wounds from bleeding.—It is stated as a fact that holding a wound to the fire will immediately stop the flowing of blood from it.

Founder in Horses.—Take a large handful of sunflower seed, bruise and mix it in any kind of feed the horse has been accustomed to; he will eat it without reluctance; two feeds will perform a cure.

Piles.—Take brown sugar, simmer it in an iron vessel, and add oyster shells pulverised, to the sugar till it becomes thick and hard; make it into pills a proper size, and apply them to the parts affected at any convenient time.

Perhaps our readers may be able to favor us with a more particular account of the Horticultural Society of New-York, for publication in the PLOUGH BOY. Meanwhile we give the following list of subjects proposed for medals and rewards, by the London Society, for the ensuing year. It will show pretty clearly to what the attention of the members are turned, and what are their objects and views.

1. The production or introduction of a new variety of Pear, of good quality, sufficiently hardy to grow and ripen its fruit as a standard, calculated to supply the table in winter or spring.

2. The production or introduction of a Currant, richer and sweeter than any of the sorts now cultivated.

3. An account of the best method of forcing Gooseberries and Currants under glass.

4. The production or introduction of a good early Grape, better adapted to the climate of England in the open air than any now commonly known.

5. The production of an improved Morello Cherry, possessing the hardiness and size of the present variety, and being more saccharine.

N. B. Specimens of the fruits and cuttings of the trees of any new fruits must be sent to the Society, together with an account and description of the particular variety.

6. An account and description of the best varieties of Cyder Apples, and of the Pears best suited to the purpose of making Perry.

7. A description and account of the different insects which infest forcing and other hot-houses, with a statement of the most successful means of destroying them.

8. A description and account of the different insects which infest hardy fruit-trees, with a statement of the most successful means of destroying them.

9. An account of all the different varieties of Pine Apples at present grown in England, with a particular description of each, and notice of its peculiar merits or properties.

10. An account of the treatment of any Tropical Fruit, which has been successfully cultivated in England, and which is likely to become useful in the dessert. Matured specimens of the fruit to be exhibited.

11. An account and description of the different Tropical Fruits which may possibly be cultivated in this country, so as to bring their fruit to maturity.

12. An account of the best sorts of Potatoes cultivated in the gardens and for the markets near London, particularly stating the seasons for which each sort is best adapted. Specimens of the same must be exhibited to the Society.

13. An account of the different varieties of Cucumbers grown in the gardens, particularly shewing which sorts are best adapted to the different modes of cultivation. Specimens of each sort to be exhibited.

14. An account of the new discoveries in the use of Steam as applicable to horticulture, with practical directions for its application.

15. An account and description of the different sorts of Stocks generally used for grafting and budding fruits in Great Britain.

16. Observations on the effect produced on the Scion and its produce, by the stock on which it is grafted.

17. An account of the best method of managing and cultivating the Culinary and Physical Herbs usually grown in gardens.

18. The discovery of a method of cultivating the Trufle in places where it does not grow naturally.

19. Explanation of the causes of clubbing in the roots of Cabbages, Brocoli, &c. with directions how to prevent the same.

20. The introduction of any new deciduous or ever-green Shrub of peculiar merit, and sufficiently hardy to stand the winter in England without protection. Rooted plants to be given to the Society.

21. An account and description of the species and varieties of any genus of ornamental plants, whether shrubs, herbaceous, or bulbs, with instructions for the cultivation and treatment of the plants described.

22. An account of all the varieties of Camellia now cultivated in England, with instructions for the management and propagation of them. Specimens to be exhibited.

23. An account and description of the different classes and best varieties in each, of the Garden Tulip, to include notices of the double and early sorts (many of which possess extraordinary beauty,) as well as of those kinds generally cultivated by florists.

24. Description of all the species and varieties of Cyclamen, and account of the proper mode of cultivating each.

25. An account of the best method of managing and cultivating the hardy Orchideæ in a garden.

26. A method of treating the Hyacinth, so as to afford roots equal to those imported.

27. Instructions for the proper management of Epidendra, Aerides, and other plants of that description, in a stove.

From the Edinburgh Farmer's Magazine.

MODE OF PRESERVING TURNIPS BY A PRACTICE CALLED PLACING.

By Mr. Francis Blaikie, Steward to Mr. Coke.

Upon clay soils, retentive subsoils, and in cases where turnips cannot be conveniently ate upon the ground, they should be drawn off to be consumed elsewhere. The early sown Swedish turnips will have arrived at maturity, and be fit for removal by the middle or latter end of November, when all descriptions of spare hands (men, women and children,) may be actively employed in what may (not inaptly) be termed the harvest of Swedish turnips.

The turnips are pulled up one at a time, and the soil or earth shaken from them: the tops are left *upon* the bulbs, but the small roots or fibres are *cut off* by bill-hooks, or some other sharp instrument. The operators generally pull the turnips up with their left hands, and, with the bill-hooks in their right hands, clean the earth off, and cut the small roots and fibres from the bulbs. The turnips are then thrown into carts, and conveyed to convenient situations for *placing* near to where they are intended to be consumed. If intended for stock in the yards, stall feeding, &c. &c. an orchard situated contiguous to the homestead, a spare part of the stack-yard, a small paddock, or some such convenient place, may be fixed upon.

The cartloads of turnips are tipped up, and the turnips *placed* by hand. They are set upon the surface of the ground with the tops uppermost, the bulbs close to, and touching each other, and only one turnip deep. Turnips placed in this manner, will not occupy so much space as may be supposed by those who have not tried the experiments; a medium crop from twenty acres will stand upon one acre, when placed properly.

The benefit derived from preserving Swedish turnips by the *placing* system are important;—the turnips are not liable to be injured by the severity of the weather; for they do not freeze so hard as when left in the fields in winter; neither do they rot and spoil as they do in the fields, after having been hard frozen. They are accessible at all times, even in deep snows, when they could not be procured from the fields.—They retain their nutritive quality the whole winter and following spring, and will even keep good until midsummer. The land is not *poached* when the turnips are drawn off in autumn, or early in winter, in the manner it would be, if carted upon at all times in course of the winter; and the turnips may be preserved from the depredations of game, when placed close together, either by their being put in a situation inaccessible to hares and rabbits, or by enclosing the *depots* with close wattled hurdles; or by a stake fence wattled with thorns, briers, furze, or some other rigid brushwood.

When turnips are stored in houses, or put into camps, (in the same manner as potatoes are usually secured,) they soon heat and spoil, and, when left standing in the fields, they are liable to the injuries before stated.

In districts where game is not plentiful, the late sown Swedish turnips may be allowed to stand in the fields for spring supply; these will throw out fresh fibres at spring, run up to seeds, and impoverish the soil. The following simple process may then be used with good effect:—When the turnips are grown in rows (as they always should be,) let the *inverted shares* of the horse-hoes be turned *to face outward*, and the horse passing up the intervals, between the rows, the shares of the hoes will pass immediately under the turnips as they stand in the rows, and cut the small roots without dislodging the bulbs; the seed stems will be checked, and the land will not sustain the injury it otherwise would do. This practice is most applicable to light soils, late sown turnips, and where game is not plentiful; but there is no method that I am acquainted with equal to the *placing* system, for preserving Swedish turnips *sown early* upon adhesive soils.

The principal objection to the placing system is the additional expense; but this I consider trifling; because, when turnips cannot be ate upon the ground, but drawn off as they are wanted for consumption elsewhere, if a fair calculation is made of the time occupied in the continual journies to the fields, and the difficulty of getting the turnips at all times in course of the winter, the balance of expense will be but trifling, if any, against the placing system.

Custom habituates us to all things. A farmer submits without murmuring, to the trouble and expense necessarily incurred in securing the other products of his fields, because it is customary, and he finds his interest in doing so: it follows, upon a parity of reasoning, that he will also submit to similar trouble and expense in securing his crops of Swedish turnips, when he becomes habituated to the practice, and finds his interest in following it. And the only way of judging of the propriety or impropriety of the measure is, by a series of fair, unbiassed and impartial experiments; for it must be practical men alone, and not theorists, who are capable of deciding as to matters of fact, in the different practices of agriculture.

ON THE APPLICATION OF GYPSUM.

(*By the same.*)

This mineral substance is called Plaster of Paris in America, where it is very generally used upon the land when cropped with wheat and Indian corn; and the reports circulated of its efficacy in promoting the luxuriant growth of those vegetables, appear quite miraculous; for it has been asserted, that so small a quantity as *one bushel to the acre* (without any manure) is certain to produce an abundant crop of clover, or of Indian corn, upon land previously exhausted by excessive tillage and cropping. This statement will appear incomprehensible to most practical men in this kingdom. I have no doubt, that, after making ample allowance for exaggeration, gypsum has been found wonderfully efficacious in promoting vegetation upon some soils in America. And I am also credibly informed, that it has rendered no benefit where applied to other soils.

Gypsum was formerly conveyed from France to America, either in a raw state, as ballast for ships, or in a state of powder, packed in barrels, and fit for immediate use as plaster, &c. &c.; and hence its name Plaster of Paris. It has been subsequently found in British America, also in the state of New York, and in other provinces of the Union. It is found in great abundance in the red marl districts of England, particularly in Derbyshire, where it is called Alabaster; also Plaster, from being used by plasterers for cement, and in making house and barn floors: It was formerly much used with lime in making mortar for building. Gypsum is calcined, or burned like lime, when intended for building purposes, and is afterwards beat into a powder, and mixed up with warter into the consistence required; it is not necessary to be calcined when intended for application to land. The Derbyshire gypsum is white, blue, and red veined; the two former are considered most valuable.

It is delivered at Hull (in irregular blocks as taken from the rock) at about 20s. per ton, and conveyed in that state to where it is intended to be used; it is then broken into small particles, not an absolute powder, but nearly so; a ton produces about twenty-four bushels of powder.—The method practised at this place for reducing gypsum is as follows. The lumps, or blocks, are first broken into small pieces by a sledge hammer, and these are ground into small particles by passing them through the oil-cake crusher with two sets of cyclinders. Mr. Coke has applied gypsum to clover layers with some good effect; but he has derived the greatest benefit from using it upon sanfoin layers. He has tried it in various proportions, and has ascertained that four bushels of powder to the acre is a sufficient dressing for sanfoin. It is spread on the surface early in spring, and is visible in the succeeding crop *to an inch* how far it had been laid; —in some instances the crop of hay and lattermath has been doubled by the application of this singular substance.

Gypsum appears to attract moisture in an extraordinary degree; and the dews in summer are much heavier, and continue later in the morning, where the gypsum has been applied, than where it has not. This may be assigned as one reason for that mineral being more efficacious, when applied to dry sandy land, than to spungy land, clays, and other soils retentive of moisture.

It has been said, that *the situation* of the land ought to be considered in the application of gypsum; and that it has not been found to answer in America when it has been used upon the sea-coast. I am inclined to think that this is a mistaken idea; at least it has not been borne out in the practice at this place; for gypsum is here found to answer, where it has been applied to the land, within two miles of the shore of the Northern Ocean; and I therefore think that the nature of the soil, and the description of crops upon it, ought to be the principal consideration in the application of gypsum.

Foreign Agricultural, Scientific and Literary Notices.

Ancient Chronicles.—Mr. O'Connor's long expected translation of the ancient chronicles of Ullad, prefaced by an ample dissertation on the Phœnician language, in which the chronicles are written, is about to be put to press. The earliest of these chronicles are anterior to the age of Moses, and give the history of the tribe of Iber, its migrations from Asia to Spain and Ireland, and the political events of the monarchy, from the year 2000 to 15 before Christ. A work of greater originality, curiosity, and we will add, of more unequivocal authenticity, was perhaps never submitted to the world. The MSS. from which Mr. O'Connor makes his translation, are about 700 years old, and will be exhibited in London, at the time the work is published, for the satisfaction of the curious.

Extraordinary Production.—There grew last year in the garden of Mr. Johnson, at Sunbury, a stalk of wheat in the hollow of an apple tree, five feet from the ground, which produced, without care, or scarce any notice, 361 straws, 33 ears, and 1092 grains of wheat, besides what was destroyed by birds and insects. The straw is still to be seen in the hollow, where it grew all affixed to one root, and the produce growing upon and covering near two rods of ground.

Sea Water.—The practice of many who frequent sea-bathing places, of descending to the beach, and there swallowing, periodically, copious draughts of sea water, is extremely detrimental to the health, from the excessive and permanent irritation of the stomach and bowels produced by this potion, in its state of mechanical mixture with selenite, floating particles of algæ and fuci, and its integral combination of muriate of soda.

Antidote to Corrosive Sublimate.—M. Taddei, professor of pharmacy in the hospital of Santa Maria Nuova, Florence, has discovered that the glùten of wheat, dissolved in water, with soap, is an antidote for the terrible effects produced by corrosive sublimate.

Quadrature of the Circle.—The following simple method of solving this hitherto unanswered problem has been discovered by Mr. A. C. Luthman, of Hereford: "Let a sphere be made, likewise a perfect hollow cube, one of the internal sides of which must be equal to the diameter of the sphere; then let the sphere be placed in the hollow cube, and pour water into the vacant space around the sphere until the water is exactly level with the edge of the cube, and consequently with the top of the sphere; after which, take the sphere carefully out, and measure the proportion which the depth of water left in the cube bears to the vacant space, lately occupied by the sphere: deduct the quantity of space occupied by the water from the entire space contained by the cube, and the remainder will be the solid contents of the sphere. In order to find the proportion between the circle and the superficial square, let a cylinder be made of the same diameter as the sphere above mentioned, and equal in height to one of the internal sides of the cube, place the cylinder in the cube, pour water around it until the water is level with the edge of the cube, then carefully take out the cylinder, find the proportions as previously directed for the sphere—and as the proportion of the cylinder is to the cube, so will the proportion of the circle be to the square."

Mermaids.—Mr. Scoresby, in his account of the Arctic Regions, observes, that "when seen at a distance, the front part of the head of the young walrus, without tusks, is not unlike the human face. As this animal is in the habit of rearing its head above water, to look at ships, and other passing objects, it is not at all improbable but that he may have afforded foundation for some of the stories of Mermaids. I have myself seen a sea-horse in such a position, and under such circumstances, that it required little strength of imagination to mistake it for a human being; so like indeed was it, that the surgeon of ship actually reported to me his having seen a man with his head just appearing above the water. Seals exhibit themselves in a similar way; the heads of some, at a distance, are not unlike the human head; the resemblance, however, is not so striking as that presented by the walrus."—As an example of the risk with which the seal fishery is prosecuted in the early part of the season, the same author reports a case of 460 seamen and nearly 200 British having been drowned, in consequence of a sudden tempest.

Fertility of Insects.—Reaumur ascertained that a single queen bee had laid in the months of March and April 12,000 eggs; and Lewenhoeck found that the *musca carnaria* deposited 144 eggs, from which in one month, were produced as many flies; so that supposing one half of these to be females, there would be in the third month

746,496 flies. The amazing fertility of fish may be illustrated by the *gadus morhua*, the cod fish, which will deposit among the rocks 9,000,000, or 10,000,000 of eggs; and again, the *perca fluviatilis* produces in April and May not less than 300,000 ova! Dr. Baster says that he counted 12,144 eggs under the tail of a female lobster, besides those that remained in the *ovarium* unprotruded.

Evolution of heat by freezing.—M. de la Beche has devised an ingenious way of showing the heat evolved by water during congelation. He places a glass vessel, containing in its lower part water, and upon that olive oil, in a temperature below the freezing point of water. In this temperature, olive oil alone would freeze and thicken, but being placed over water, it is retained in the fluid state, in consequence of the heat evolved by the water during its conversion into ice; and it is not until the whole of the water is perfectly frozen, that the oil itself will freeze.

Cranology.—The New Zealanders practice a mode of drying and preserving the heads of their chiefs who have fallen in battle. Some of these singular memorials have been brought to England by the traders who touch on that island, the sailors being anxious to get them in exchange for baubles which might attract the cupidity of the natives. One of these is in the possession of a gentleman in the city: it is the head of a chief, who was killed in battle about twelve months ago, about thirty years of age. It is certainly much less disgusting than such a preparation might be conceived to be. It is perfectly dry, and has not the least offensive smell. The whole of the substance within the skull is taken out, and the skin is fastened within to a small hoop. The skin has a yellowish tanned appearance, and there is not an eighth of an inch that is free from tattooing. The teeth are perfect, but small and much worn. The place in the cheek where the fatal ball entered, and where the skin was consequently broken, is supplied by a piece of wood on which the lines of the tattooing are continued.—The forehead is high, and apparently been stripped of hair for the purpose of scarification; but from the hinder part of the head the hair hangs luxuriantly in easy curls. It is black and soft, and in a perfectly natural state, not having been in the least injured by whatever process the head has been subjected to. The head has been recognized by the chiefs who were in this country, as that of a person of the most exalted rank, which is also shown by the tattooing. As every step in dignity is marked by a fresh scratch on the face, the owner of this head must have arrived at the *ne plus ultra* of elevation.

Tulip Tree.—There is at present a tulip tree in full blossom at Pitcaithly-house, which was planted about a century ago, and never carried flowers before. The trunk is about 4 1-2 feet in circumference, and the branches cover a large portion of ground. The tree is allowed by botanists to be one of the finest specimens of the kind in the north of Scotland.

Anglo-Saxon Coins.—In the course of last summer a number of workmen being engaged in digging in a field in the parish of Dalsund, in Bialstad Socken, discovered a considerable quantity of ancient coins, and other articles, of fine silver; as nine bracelets of four different shapes; also silver chains, which apparently were used as bracelets. Among 242 coins, the inscriptions on which were still legible, 87 were of the Anglo-Saxons, and, except three, were all struck in the reign of King Ethelred; two are of the reign of his father Edgar; 83 bear date of the year 1005. The remainder, except two Cufic coins, one of the year of the Hegira 286, the other of the year 308, are German, struck under the reigns of the emperors Otho I. and II. and the empress Adelaide. This intelligence may prove interesting to British collectors whose series of the Anglo-Saxon coins is not complete. We know that a publication on this subject was in forward preparation, and some of the plates engraved, by the late Rev. Mr. Southgate of the British Museum; but how far his plan was persevered in after the decease of the learned author, we do not know. The Royal Cabinet of Antiquities at Stockholm is in possession of the antiquities thus accidentally obtained.

Large Potatoe.—There was raised, in a field at Marchfield, belonging to James Heron, Esq. a Potatoe, of the enormous weight of 4lb. 1oz.—This potatoe is of the Winter-Kidney kind, and has six of those excrescences, which gardeners call paps, growing from the main body. But even independently of these excrescences, the body is of itself at least 3lb. weight.

Magnetic Needle.—Col. Beaufoy is induced to believe, from his magnetical observations which are published in Thomson's Annals, that the greatest variation of the compass has been attained, and that the needle is now slowly retrograding, and returning to the north. During the last nine months of 1818, the variation gradually increased, and was 24 deg. 41 min. 20 sec. at noon. It fluctuated during January, 1819, decreased in February, and again fluctuated in March. Since that time the variation has been in a regular state of decrease. Col. Beaufoy places the maximum of western variation in the month of March, 1819.

Jeanne d'Arc.—The works which have been undertaken at Domremy, for repairing the house of Jeanne d'Arc, erecting a monument to her memory, and establishing a school for the instruction of female children, are proceeding with great activity. In front of the house in which the heroine was born, a neat and simple edifice has been raised. An avenue separates the building into two grand compartments, one of which is set aside for the school, and the other for the governess's apartments. The avenue leads to a court-yard, and on the left is the old door of the house of the Maid of Orleans, with its curious bas reliefs. Fragments of wood, stone, and other relics of the age of Jeanne d'Arc, are deposited in the principal chamber of the house. Fronting the new edifice is a square, in the centre of which a statue is to be raised to her honour.

Animal Magnetism.—The Royal Academy of Sciences at Berlin have proposed Animal Magnetism as a prize subject. It is suggested to the candidates, that wonderful recitals are not required, but a description of those constant laws to which magnetism is subject, and the connection which it has with other natural phenomena.

Natural Curiosity.—The Lady Balcarras, East Indiaman, lately arrived from Madras, brought home a serpent alive, twenty-eight feet in length, and fourteen inches in diameter. It may be approached with safety, and it is said not to be venomous. Its food is a live fowl once a month!

Lusus Naturæ.—A hen, belonging to Mr. Charles King, of Sherborne, hatched a troop of ducks on Friday, leaving four eggs in the nest, and not bringing them out by Sunday, they were thrown away, when one was found to contain a fine feathered *duck having two bodies and tails, with two legs to each body.* It has only two wings and the head appears deformed from the contraction of the uppe. beak. This singular bird died from a blow which it received.

Botany.—There are at present in flower, in the garden of Mr. Falconar, Carlowrie, julipa oculus solis, or silken tulip of the Levant, for the first time in Scotland, and muscari moschatum, vao. flavum, or yellow musk hyacinth, both of which were sent by Lady Liston from Constantinople.

Bruised Oats.—An individual, who has tried feeding his horse on whole and on *bruised oats*, states, that a horse fed on bruised oats will look and work as well as one fed on double the same quantity of oats not bruised.

Phrenology.—A gentleman of Liverpool is preparing the following whimsical device: He has cut a field turnip into a shape as nearly resembling that of a human skull as possible, got it cast in plaster, and intends sending duplicates to gentlemen skilled in phrenology for an account of the character of the individual. These accounts will be published, with a note annexed, that the personage so ably described was a field turnip!

Fram the New-England Farmer.

Manure from Swine, how to increase the quantity.

The dung of swine is very rich and fat manure, and so cold as to ferment very slowly. It is so rich and oily as to be double in value to neat's dung. It will render the most dry and hungry soils exceedingly fruitful in a wettish season, as I have found by experience. It resists the ill effects of drought, and does most service in a hot country. By its steady and gradual supply of a rich nourishment, it is peculiarly adapted for the growing of hops, pumpkins, running beans, and every plant which has long vines. Nothing can equal it for the growing of potatoes; it has produced me more than a peck in a hill on the poorest hungry sands; or rather, I might say, *straw only a little impregnated with the dung of hogs* has done it. This is so strong a manure, that it answers well when mixed with a large proportion of earth, weeds, straw or other bibulous substances. It is almost incredible how great a quantity of good manure may be obtained, by supplying a hog-stye with rubbish to mix with the dung. I have heard of forty loads of manure being made in a year, by means of one hog-stye, and I have no doubt of its being practicable.

From the N. Y. Evening Journal and Patron of Industry.

WHITEWASHING FRUIT TREES.

This practice, which contributes so essentially

to the rapid growth and health of fruit trees, is too little known among our farmers. If, on setting out a young orchard of 200 apple trees, one half of them be whitewashed every spring, in the month of April, those that are thus treated will be in a fine bearing condition two or three years sooner than the rest of the orchard; and will, in the course of three or four years, be at least twice as large and much more thrifty; the bark or epidermis, will retain the fine smooth appearance of a young nursery tree; and furnish no retreats for catterpillars or other destructive insects. I have witnessed the success of this experiment on several orchards, within the last fourteen years; and I have no hesitation in saying, that it not only contributes greatly to the growth of the tree, but that the quantity and perfection of the fruit is much improved. The coat of lime or whitewash, put on the trunk of the tree, should be about the same time as that of the common coat of whitewash; no salt should be used. The astonishing effect of treating trees in this way, will not be surprising to those who are acquainted with the rationale of its operation. *Carbon* is the principal constituent of wood, and is essential to the growth of the tree. The *carbonic acid* of the atmosphere combines with the *quick lime* of the whitewash, and forms the carbonate of lime, and is brought in contact with the bark of the tree, by which it is decomposed; the carbon furnishes food for the tree, whilst the oxygen of the carbonic acid is set at liberty in the gaseous form. As soon as the carbonate of lime is, by this process, decomposed, a fresh dose of carbonic acid combines with the lime, and the carbonate of lime is regenerated; and this acts as a constant conducting medium for the supply of carbon to the tree. J. B. Q.

From the Troy Farmer's Reg ster.

DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES.

We have often said, and we again repeat, that the idea of sending to the distance of three thousand miles to purchase articles which we can manufacture at home is not only disgraceful and anti-patriotic, but extremely degrading and humiliating to the American character. But if it is improper to purchase manufactures from abroad which we can make at home, is it not criminal to send the raw materials which we raise to the distance of three thousand miles, to be manufactured at the great expense of two freights, commission, duties, and a long string of other charges, and all this for the exclusive benefit of, and to give employment to, the artizans of another country, and our most formidable rival, while thousands of our own citizens, who could, and are willing to do the same work, are suffering the greatest distress for want of employment. We shall never be really independent so long as we submit to the degrading humiliation of wearing, and eating, and drinking articles manufactured on the other side of the globe, in preference to encouraging and employing the citizens of our own country who are willing, and capable, to manufacture the same species of articles, and that too of a more substantial and durable quality than most of the flimsy nick-nacks and trumpery which we import from Europe.

Weekly Summary.

From South America, the accounts continue to be most flattering. Bolivar's official account of the battle of Carabobo, has reached this country. The liberating, (or patriot) army, obtained a complete triumph over the royalists, and the war in Venezuela is considered as closed. The patriot army lost many of its bravest officers. The royalist army consisted of 6000 selected men. It is completely annihilated.

By the schooner Alexander, from Rio de la Hacha, letters have been received, informing, that Boca Chica had been taken by the patriot army, and all the prisoners sent to Havanna. The Indian chief, Gomez, has gone over to the patriot army, with his family and all his followers; he was cordially received, and appointed a Lt. Col. and was about to march, with 1000 infantry and some cavalry, against Guajira. He and his followers have taken the oath of fidelity. On the whole, it appears that the patriot cause in South America is rapidly gaining ground, and we trust it will not be long bef re they will be completely emancipated from the thraldom of European tyrants.

The last New-York papers contain news, of considerable moment, from Constantinople, &c. The war between the Greeks aad Turks continues to rage. At Constantinople, on the 10th of June, great tumult existed—Christians of all denominations were subject to the grossest insults, and assassinations are frequent. The Greeks have a strong fleet in the Black Sea, and another in the Archipelago. The naval force of the Turks in the Archipelago is nearly annihilated. It is rumoured that a *Russian* army, under the command of gen. Wetgenstein, has crossed the Danube, on its march against Constantinople.

An attempt was made to rob the store of N. Gorham, Jun. at Canandaigua, on the 12th inst. The noise of the robber awoke Mr. G. and the clerk; before they could reach the store room the villain fled without any booty. The house of S. Phelps, Esq. was broken into the same night, but nothing was obtained.

Captain Prince, of the brig Rising Sun, at Philadelphia. had his pocket book taken from his inside coat pocket, on the 16th inst. by a man calling himself Nathaniel Brown, who had taken passage on board the brig for St. Andrews.

The President of the United States has issued a proclamation, declaring that the discriminating tonnage duties on Norwegian ships and vessels, and on goods, the produce or manufacture of Norway, imported into this country in those vessels, are repealed, in consequence of the repeal by that kingdom of the discriminating duties on ships and goods of the United States.

Mr. Alexander Lithgow, first accountant of the Farmer's Bank of Virginia, has been arrested, and is in custody at Richmond, on a charge of embezzling a part of the funds of that bank. A law of Virginia makes the offence felony.

A barrel of flour was lately purchased at Sawnee-town, regularly branded "W. & J. Armstrong, 169, s. fine." The contents proved to be flour to the depth of a few inches at each end, the centre was filled with *bran*.

There are, at present, 34 or 35 Peace Societies in the United States, having upwards of 1690 members belonging to them.

The keel of a national ship is nearly ready to be laid at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia, which is expected to be the largest armed ship in the world, by having three entire tiers of guns, besides those on the quarter deck and forecastle—in all 140 guns.

A Norfolk paper notices the singular fact of a boarding-house being twice struck by lightning at Old Point Comfort, the present season.

Adelaide Chartique, a French woman, drowned herself in a well, at Charleston, on the 10th instant.

At Gloucester, Massachusetts, two persons have lately died of a disease that was of the malignant type, and, at the date of the last accounts, a third remained dangerously ill. They had been on a visit to Boston in a Chebacco boat, loaded with fish, and were all taken sick about the same time, which caused them to return home the next morning. The men, it was believed, had no connection with any vessel from a foreign place.

Six persons have died at Wilmington N. C of a fever bearing a strong resemblance to the yellow fever.

The city of Pensacola consists of from 250 to 300 houses. Rents are from $500 to $1200 per annum, payable monthly.

Official intelligence has been received in London of the death of Napoleon Bonaparte on the 6th of May last. His disorder was a cancer in the chest. He was a prisoner on St. Helena over 5 years and a half.

The British inhabitants residing near Lake Champlain, are petitioning the Governor, praying that one of the American steam boats on that Lake, may be permitted to run between St. John's and Missisquoi Bay, two days in the week, on the privileges of a British bottom, until they shall build a steam boat.

Letters from Wilmington, N. C of the 16th ult. state that the alarm of yellow fever had, in a great measure, subsided, there having been no new case for 5 days.

Recently, in Virginia, an armed black man made attempts on several women. He fired a gun at two, who escaped from him—one of whom was severely wounded. A reward of 100 dollars is offered for his arrest.

There is now in possession of Mr. Larry Costigan, of Sunkhaze, a beaver hat, which has actually been in constant service for *fifty-five years*—the old gentleman now thinks he is entitled to a new one.

Joseph Jefferies, of Londonderry township, (Penn.) lately presented to John Jefferies, of Philadelphia, some large plums, one of which weighed two and a half ounces quick weight, and measured 6 1-2 inches in circumference.

Independent travelling—A man, his wife, and eight small children, recently passed through Zanesville, with a two wheeled hand carriage (or barrow,) from New-York, on their way to Columbus, Ohio. Their carriage was propelled by the father in the rear. assisted by two of his eldest boys, with ropes, in front of the vehicle. They neither asked charity, nor accepted it when offered.

The barn of Mrs. Joanna Davis, New-Britain, Pa. was destroyed by lightning, on the 18th ult. with all its contents. A fine horse was killed by lightning the same evening.

The four men that were recently apprehended for the murder of Mr. Sibert, of Williamsburgh, U.C. had their trials lately at Cornwall—They were all found guilty, and sentenced to be hung on the 20th of August.

A young man died at Haddonfield, on the morning of the 19th ult. in consequence of wounds received at the Camp meeting at Snowhill.

The man who lately robbed Maj. Bray, at Medford, has been discovered. He had stolen a horse in the town of Palmer, and on being taken for the theft was searched, and Maj. Bray's watch was found in his possession. He was afterwards identified by the Major. His name is Michael Martin, a native of Ireland.

The measels and whooping cough are very prevalent in Bristol, and have already proved fatal to several young children.

All the prizes addresses, written for the opening of the theatre in New-York, are to be published in a volume, by the proprietor of the Ladies' Literary Cabinet.

It is very sickly in Loudoun county, Va. In one family three persons had died within twenty-four hours. No cause can be assigned for the mortality.

A panther was killed by a Mr. Hall, in Wharton township, Pa. on the 11th July, measuring 7 1-12 feet in length, and weighing 111 lbs.

A wag observed, the other day, that there was one claim made, for the coronation of George IV, which our editors had neglected to publish, viz:—The Earl of B——, one of his Majesty's youthful companions, claimed, from long fellowship, to hold the gold bowl, into which his Majesty, after the wine was removed, should discharge the contents of his royal stomach; and to have the bowl for his reward.—Allowed, but to receive the contents, without the bowl.

Four children were found lying in the yard of their parents, at Knoxville, Ten. on the 20th of July, out of their senses, fighting and biting themselves, like mad dogs. Medicine was administered, and it was found they had eaten stramonium seed. In twenty-four hours they all recovered.

The Coroner, at New-York, reports the death of Eleanor Wintercastle, an Irish Woman, aged 49, who had taken too much laudanum.

The brig Francis, Drummond, arrived in the Delaware, from St. Jago de Cuba, was robbed July 31, off Cape Antonio, by an armed ferocious crew, in an open sail boat, of goods, money, jewels, &c. amounting to about 2500 dollars.

A new proof of the utility of the Telegraph, was evinced last week, by its communications to a respectable physician of New-York, who had a patient on Staten Island, dangerously ill. The movements of the physician were governed by the telegraphic information which he received.

The board of health at Baltimore, report *ten* deaths by malignant fever, on the 28th ult.

DIED,

On Saturday last, the Rev. JOHN M'DONALD, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church, in Chapel-stret, in this city.

On Sunday evening last, DANIEL HALE, Esq. formerly Secretary of this State, and a patriot of the revolution.

On Sunday, Mr. WILLIAM H. SEYMOUR, merchant of this city.

On Tuesday morning last, after a lingering illness, which she bore with christian fortitude, Miss SUSAN RYCKMAN, in the eighty-fourth year of her age.

Very suddenly, at Schodack, Col. PHILIP STAATS, one of the heroes of '76, in the 67th year of his age.

From the European Magazine.

THE INEXPERIENCED SHEPHERDESS.

A RUSSIAN POPULAR SONG.

I'm fourteen summers old, I trow ;
'Tis time to look about me now :
'Twas only yesterday, they said,
I was a silly, silly maid :
'Tis time to look about me now.

The shepherd swains so rudely stare,
I must reprove them, I declare :
This talks of beauty—that of love—
I'm such a fool, I can't reprove—
I *must* reprove them, I declare.

'Tis strange—but yet I hope no sin—
Something unwonted speaks within :
Love's language is a mystery ;
And yet I feel, and yet I see—
O what is this, that speaks within ?

The shepherd cries, "I love thee sweet :"
"And I love *thee*," my lips repeat :
Kind words ! they sound as sweet to me,
As music's fairest melody ;
"I love thee," oft my lips repeat.

His pledge he brings—I'll not reprove ;
O no ! I'll take that pledge of love :
To thee my guardian dog I'd give,
Could I without that guardian live ;
But still I take thy pledge of love.

My shepherd's crook I'll give to thee—
O no ! my father gave it me—
And treasures by a parent given,
From a fond child should ne'er be riven—
O no ! my father gave it me.

But thou shalt have yon lambkin fair—
Nay ! 'tis my mother's fondest care ;
For every day, she joys to count
Each snowy lambkin on the mount ;—
I'll give thee then no lambkin fair.

But stay, my shepherd ! wilt thou be
Forever faithful—fond to me ?
A sweeter gift I'll then impart,
And thou shalt have—a maiden's heart,
If thou wilt give thy heart to me.

Premiums for the Preparation of Flax.

The Board of Trustees of the MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING AGRICULTURE, viewing the culture of flax as of primary importance to the agricultural interests of the Commonwealth, have adopted measures to encourage the introduction of Machines for dressing that article *without preparation*, said to be in operation in Europe ; but concluding that much time might probably elapse before such machines could be introduced and their practical utility demonstrated, and with impressions that the injurious preparation by *dew rotting* or the inconvenient process of *water rotting* have retarded the cultivation of this valuable plant, the extension of which would be immediately promoted by the discovery of a mode less liable to objections, appointed a Committee of the Board to take the subject into consideration, and to offer such rewards as they might deem expedient to effectuate the object.

When said Committee contemplate the powerful dissolvent and expansive properties of *steam*, they are led to believe that it will speedily separate the fibres of flax from the stem without impairing their strength, and at the same time cleanse the material so perfectly as to supersede the use of *Alkalies* or *Acids* : and they are encouraged to hope that its convenient application may be made to comport with calculations of profit. Should they be disappointed in these expectations, they have supposed that *Boiling* may be resorted to in preference to the usual modes of preparation, especially when it is considered that *this* process, as well as steaming, may be performed at such seasons as will not interfere with other important labors. The Committee offer,

To the person who shall prove by actual experiment, the best and most economical method of preparing flax by *steam*, which shall appear to the satisfaction of the Trustees preferable to the common modes—the Society's Gold Medal, or - - - - $ 50 00

To the person who shall exhibit the next best—a Medal, or - - - $ 30 00

To the person who shall prove by actual experiment, the best and most econonomical method of preparing flax by *boiling*, which shall appear to the satisfaction of the Trustees preferable to the usual modes—the Society's Gold Medal, or - - - - $ 50 00

To the person who shall exhibit the next best—a Medal, or - - - $ 30 00

To the person who shall prove, by actual experiment, *any other mode* of preparing flax, that shall be deemed by the Trustees preferable to the usual method—the Society's Gold Medal, or $ 50 00

A strict compliance with the following requisitions will be necessary to entitle the competitors to premiums, viz :—

The experiment must be made upon a quantity that shall produce not less than seventy-five pounds of well dressed flax. A particular description of the apparatus ; an account of the cost of the same ; the time employed and manner of conducting the whole process till the material is ready to be dressed ; the quantity of fuel used, and all the items of labour and expense. And also the expense of *dressing*, and the quantity dressed per day, by hand or machinery. The whole to be attested by the claimant and one or more of his assistants, before a magistrate. These documents, with a fair sample of the flax of not less than five pounds ; are to be deposited with BENJAMIN GOULD, Esq. one of the Secretaries of the Board, at his Office, State-street, Boston, on or before the second Wednesday of January, 1822. S. W. POMEROY, *Chairman.*

August 21, 1821.

Arragonite.—Dr. Clarke, of Cambridge, writes as follows, in the Annals of Philosophy for July. "About the time that Belzoni published the interesting volume of his Travels in Egypt, he sent to me for examination a fragment of the magnificent *Soros*, which he discovered in the sepulchres of the kings of Thebes, and which has excited so much curiosity, from the description given of it by this enterprising traveller.—According to his account of that *Soros*, no relique, even of Egyptian splendour, has yet been found of a more marvellous nature. It is of one integral mass, of a polished translucid stone, which he believed to be oriental alabaster, covered within and without with hieroglyphics, cut in the surface of the stone, and afterwards filled with a blue pigment, which yet remains in the several cavities. After a careful examination of this supposed alabaster, I had the satisfaction to inform Mr. Belzoni, that the material used by the ancient Thebans in the construction of this beautiful *Soros*, was yet more remarkable than he had imagined ; for that it consisted of one entire mass of arragonite. As no instance had ever occurred in the present state of our knowledge respecting arragonite, where this mineral had been before observed in equal magnitude, the opinion I had given of it was of course liable to be called in question ; but it was soon afterwards confirmed by the testimony of one of the most illustrious chemists living, who considered that no doubt whatever as to the real nature of this substance could be entertained."

New Metal called Aurum Millium.—It having been a great desideratum with watchmakers, plate workers, &c. &c. to procure new metal resembling gold, and possessing some of its best qualities, Mr. Mill has been induced to apply himself to this particular object. After long trial and perseverance, he discovered a metal which he calls aurum millium, and which he has no doubt will answer most of the purposes of gold, without being subject to the numerous imperfections of petit-or, pinchbeck, &c. &c. In colour it resembles 60s. gold, and is nearly as heavy in specific gravity as jewellers' gold. It is malleable, and has the invaluable property of not easily tarnishing, to which the metals just mentioned, and all other imitations of gold are so particularly liable. It is very hard and sonorous, and requires care in the working. The price of it being from 4s. to 4s. 6d. an ounce will not be an obstacle to its general use, and he has no hesitation in saying that for beauty there is not any metal that exceeds it, as it is susceptible of an exquisite polish.

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